

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for a user to create a poster having one or more images, said method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) prompting the user to select a template corresponding to a type of poster;
 - (b) prompting the user to select one of a plurality of image sources;
 - (c) receiving one or more images from the selected one of the plurality of image sources;
 - (d) prompting the user to select one or more of the one or more received images;
 - (e) repeating steps (b) through (d) until a desired number of images is selected;
 - (f) placing the selected images on the template; and
 - (g) outputting a signal representative of the poster.
2. The method of claim 1, further including the step of utilizing the output signal to print the poster.
3. The method of claim 1, further including the step of receiving an input from the user for selecting a size of the poster.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the size of the poster may be selected to have substantially any value between approximately 5 inches and approximately 48 inches.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the template is selected from the group consisting of a calendar, a poster and an announcement banner.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the image sources include at least one of a CD ROM, a scanner, a digital media reader and a photo gallery of images stored within the workstation.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the poster may be created using images received from any combination of the image sources.

8. The method of claim 1, further including the step of displaying a thumbnail representation of each image received from the selected image source.
9. The method of claim 1, further including the step of editing each selected image.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of editing the selected image includes at least one of cropping, rotating, enlarging and reducing the image.
11. The method of claim 1, further including the step of adding an arbitrary selection of text to the poster.
12. The method off claim 11, wherein the text comprises a caption associated with an image.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein the text comprises a title for the poster.
14. The method of claim 11, wherein the text is selected by touching keys included in a representation of a keyboard on a touch screen monitor.
15. A workstation for printing a poster having one or more images, the components of said workstation being contained within a single housing, said components comprising:
 - a computer;
 - a memory for storing photo gallery images;
 - a device for inputting personal images;
 - a touch screen monitor for accepting information from a user; and
 - a printer for printing the poster, wherein the workstation combines one or more of the personal images and one or more of the photo gallery images for inclusion in the printed poster.
16. The workstation of claim 15, further including a modem.

17. The workstation of claim 15, further including a media reader for inputting personal images. .
18. The workstation of claim 15, further including a CD ROM drive for inputting personal images.
19. The workstation of claim 15, further including a scanner for inputting personal images.
20. The workstation of claim 15, wherein the printer utilizes a roll feeder.
21. The workstation of claim 15, wherein the printer is capable of printing a poster of substantially any length in the range between approximately 5 inches and approximately 48 inches.
22. A workstation for creating a poster, the components of said workstation being contained within a single housing, said components comprising:
 - a computer;
 - an interface device for connecting the workstation to a remotely located server, said interface device for receiving one or more photo gallery images from the server;
 - a memory for storing the one or more photo gallery images, and
 - a touch screen monitor for simultaneously displaying the one or more photo gallery images, wherein one or more of the one or more photo gallery images stored in the memory may be selected to create the poster.
23. The workstation of claim 22, further including at least one personal input device for inputting one or more personal images to the workstation.

24. The workstation of claim 23, wherein the touch screen monitor simultaneously displays the one or more personal images, and wherein one or more of the one or more personal images may be selected to create the poster.
25. The workstation of claim 22, wherein the workstation provides diagnostics to the remote server and receives software updates from the server.
26. A method for a user to create a poster, said method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) prompting the user to select one of a plurality of templates, the plurality of templates being variously designed for: (1) inserting images from one or more image sources and (2) for inserting only text;
 - (c) Prompting the user to enter text into each of one or more predetermined portions of the selected template if the selected template is a template designed for inserting only text;
 - (d) outputting a signal representative of the poster.
27. The method of claim 26, further including the step of utilizing the output signal to print the poster.
28. The method of claim 26, further including the step of receiving an input from the user for selecting a size of the poster.
29. The method of claim 28, wherein the size of the poster may be selected to have substantially any value between approximately 5 inches and approximately 48 inches.
30. The method of claim 26, wherein the template is selected from the group consisting of a calendar, a poster and an announcement banner.